

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder if any of the students, who live or teach near London, are aware of the existence of a School Nature Study Union, especially for teachers.

The subscription is 2/- per annum, and this entitled one to attend Monthly Evening Lectures in the winter, and Natural Study Rambles, conducted by special leaders, on Saturday afternoons, about once in three weeks in the summer, the members, of course, paying their own travelling expenses (usually reduced fares).

The excursions this year have been as follows:—

May 5.—To Cheshunt. Special object: "Pond Life."

May 19.—To Epping Forest. Special object: "Trees."
(Postponed owing to wet weather).

June 16.—To Caterham. Special object: "Flowers that grow on Chalk."

The next and last is on *July 14th*, from Hampton Court along the river Mole. Special object not yet published. Complete details (time, place of meeting, cost, route, &c.) are sent to every member a few days prior to each excursion.

Unfortunately, I have only been able to be present at the one to Caterham, and it poured so heavily shortly after we started that a great number were obliged to return by an earlier train. Anyhow I was there long enough to see that everything had been well organised, and had the weather been propitious, I am sure the expedition would have proved most helpful.

Last year the subjects of the papers read by specialists at the Winter Meetings were as follows:—

April.—"Nature Study in London."

May.—"The necessary training of teachers for nature study."

October.—"Some suggestions for Autumn Nature Sessions."

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November.—"Geography as a Nature Study."

December.—"Trees in Winter."

All further particulars can be obtained by applying to either H. E. Turner, Esq., Bellenden Road H. G. School, Peckham, S.E.; Miss M. R. N. Holmer, Bedford College, York Place, W. (Hon. Sec.); or Miss K. M. Hall, Stepney Borough Museum, 77, High Street, Whitechapel, E. (Treasurer).

Yours,

G. M. B.

STUDENTS' MEETINGS.

By kind invitation of Mrs. Franklin, the students met at her house on June 16th to hear an account of the Whitsuntide Conference. All spent a most inspiring and delightful afternoon. As the papers and resolutions at that Conference will appear in the "Parents' Review," they need not be enumerated here; suffice it to say that all felt that an immense work for our cause had been accomplished. Among those present were:—

Miss MacShee	Miss Judd
" Smeeton	" Faunce
" G. Edwards	" M. Evans
" Culverhouse	" Pennethorne
" Bernau	" Fraser
" Heath	The Misses Dixon
" Flewker	Miss Conder
" W. Wilkinson	" Hope Wiseman
" J. Wilkinson	" Morris
" Francis	" R. Williams
" Pike	

Mrs. Epps, whose delightful papers on "The Stone Age," &c., have been such a feature in the "Parent's Review," has been most kindly conducting parties of students

round especial rooms in the British Museum. It is hoped that there may be some more of these delightful treats in the autumn, of which individual notice would be sent to students in or near London, and it is hoped that many will avail themselves of this great opportunity.

Present June 16th.—Miss Smeeton, Miss Cox. Miss W. Kitching.

Present June 23rd.—Miss Smeeton, Miss W. Kitching, Miss Faunce, Miss L. Gray, Miss Bernau, and a mother.

Present June 30th.—Miss Smeeton, Miss W. Kitching, Miss Judd, Miss Dixon and pupil, Miss Morris, Miss R. Williams, Miss Bernau, and others not students.

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The talks were fine; personally I liked this last one the best. We did some of the Egyptian rooms, and Mrs. Epps constantly gave hints as to how the subject should be taken with children. We first of all went to the map of Africa, and Mrs. Epps had brought with her a diagram of the Nile as a lily: the flower, the delta; the tributary, a bud; the river, the stalk. A valuable hint was, "Never give a detail unless it is understood what part of the whole is meant." Another suggestion, "Do not jump to Egypt—take the journey there." The children should have a diagram each of Nile, and fill in names in their right place as they occur, no name to be given unless some connection with it is given.

Mrs. Epps recommended Philips' "Model Atlas," 8d., and Kingslake's "Eothen" for beautiful description of Egyptian scenery.

Children can be helped to realize the difficulties of Egyptian history if their attention is drawn to the fact that our History only covers 2,000 years, as compared with the Egyptian 6,000; they have thirty dynasties, against our less than a dozen dynasties.

After we had had a talk near the map, we went to see some actual bits of pyramids.

To give an idea of size of pyramid, the base of one is almost the same size as Lincoln's Inn Fields, the height 80 feet higher than St. Paul's.

Close to these stones is the remains of a statue that plainly shows the bows under the feet, a sign of conquest, a bow for a kingdom. While talking of pyramids sympathy with forced labour might be drawn out without emphasizing too much the horrors of such terribly hard work in the blazing sun.

Next we saw the early sculptures; these are better at this period than at any subsequent time—they are truer to nature. Sculptors of a later period thought it more reverent not to exactly copy nature.

Then followed a delightful talk about the wonderful tombs, and we saw casts of false doors: the great idea was to bury the dead so securely that at the end of 4,000 years' perfect rest, they should be able to proceed to the Abode of the Blest.

We got an idea of what a real and interesting person Queen Hatshepsu was.

The illustrations of the Book of the Dead are fascinating.

Mrs. Epps is now revelling in two hieroglyphic grammars; a future day with Mrs. Epps and hieroglyphics is something to live for.

Those who have not been to the talks will like to know that Miss Mason was Mrs. Epps' Mistress of Method—that is what those present must have inferred.

Mrs. Epps' own enthusiasm and deep-down reverence for her subject made the talks truly inspiring.

We were hospitably entertained to tea by Mrs. Epps in the middle of each talk, and at tea time she told us little scraps about her earlier acquaintance with Miss Mason and Miss Williams.